

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for ascertaining the control voltage of a piezoelectric element, wherein the voltage drop at the piezoelectric element following a charge process is measured and the control voltage of the piezoelectric element is inferred from this voltage drop.
2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the voltage applied at the piezoelectric element is measured immediately following the charge process and the voltage applied at the piezoelectric element is measured immediately prior to a subsequent discharge process and the two are subtracted from each other and the individual control voltage of the piezoelectric element is inferred from this difference.
3. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the individual control voltage is gathered from a characteristic representing the relation between the difference and the individual control voltage.
4. The method as recited in Claim 3, wherein the characteristic is ascertained experimentally on the basis of a large number of measurements at different actuators.
5. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the voltage applied at the piezoelectric element during the charge process is increased iteratively until the voltage applied at the piezoelectric element immediately following the charge process does not deviate from a voltage applied at the piezoelectric element immediately prior to a subsequent discharge process, and the voltage thus ascertained is rated as the individual voltage requirement, from which the individual control voltage of the piezoelectric element is inferred.
6. The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the iterative increase of the voltage applied to the piezoelectric

element and the measurement of the voltage able to be tapped off at the piezoelectric element are conducted at low pressures of the fluid to be injected.

7. The method as recited in Claim 5 or 6,  
wherein the voltage characteristic is measured continuously at the piezoelectric element.
8. The method as recited in one of Claims 5 through 8,  
wherein instead of the iterative increase of the voltage applied to the piezoelectric element, the piezoelectric element has only one voltage applied to it and in this case the charge time is increased iteratively until the voltage applied at the piezoelectric element immediately following the charge process does not deviate from the voltage applied at the piezoelectric element immediately prior to a subsequent discharge process.